

Graduate and Professional Student Senate of West Virginia University

Meeting Agenda

Monday, October 3, 2016 | 7:00 PM | Shenandoah Room, Mountainlair

- I. Attendance, Welcome
 - a. Open meeting at 7:04
 - b. Introducing Constinia
 - c. Welcome and pass around attendance sheet
 - d. Sam created a roster for this purpose
 - e. Will going over the mission of the GPSS as a focus point for our conversation
 - i. Ways we can help the university
- II. Discussion: Office of Graduate Education and Life
 - a. Dr. Constinia Charbonnette, 15 minutes
 - i. Applaud us for doing what is needed
 - ii. Here in Karraker's stead
 - iii. Director of graduate student funding and success
 - iv. Q: What is expected of the GPSS?
 1. Fully engage in research as scholars
 2. GPSS work is paving the way for students coming after us
 - v. Traction for change now
 - vi. Q: OGEL wants to pair and partner with GPSS – what are ways we can be helpful and get our voices better heard?
 1. Continue to be strategic
 - vii. Talking with Sam about 2 years ago and the founding of GPSS – suggestions for working with administration
 1. The way to make lasting changes was to create an institutional vehicle for grad concerns
 2. To be in concert (especially with Karraker)
 - a. To have administration behind our agenda
 3. Organization is key
 4. Put everything in writing (like the parking letter)
 5. Power in numbers and a certain level of power in what we put in writing
 - viii. OGEL is in the student business and the people business, but when things come from the students it becomes more powerful
 - ix. Q: should we coordinate through OGEL to interface with administration?
 1. Do what we think is best
 - x. Grad school here is decentralized, each college sets its own rules according to the university policy
 - xi. Knows what its like to be a grad student here as she got her higher degrees at WVU
 - xii. Start with associate deans or program level to help advocate for change in colleges – can be part of our allies

- xiii. What are the top 3 things that preclude grad students from succeeding?
 - 1. Finances
 - 2. Physical/Mental Health
 - a. Mountaineer Hub can help direct calls (maybe not for healthcare)
 - 3. Guidance for completing degree
 - a. Helping decide on research project
 - b. Requirements and timelines/deadlines
- xiv. Could we get a graduate school?
 - 1. Ask Karraker
 - 2. A lot of work – resources, time, money
- xv. Ask the associate deans for the requirements for various programs – Karraker could ask them to provide this to us?
 - 1. Programs could also have different requirements
- xvi. Money – very little funding and most is for Doctoral students, not a lot for continuing students
 - 1. More for international students
 - 2. Raise more foundation money
 - a. Students more involved in fundraising
 - b. Faculty more involved in fundraising?
- xvii. Campus conversation – good to see
- xviii. Newsletter will also be letting grad students know of the various support for grad students
 - 1. Resources available
- xix. Download Guidebook – in the resource guide there
- xx. Choosing a chair – help with picking an advisor
 - 1. An important and difficult process to create a dissertation committee
- xxi. Research group – how to choose
 - 1. Talk with other students
- xxii. Looking for assistance in helping create these types of guides and advice for grad students
- xxiii. Q: the Big 12, what is the recommendation on working with other big 12 graduate student senates
 - 1. national grad student conference (association for graduate and professional students?)
 - 2. BIG 12 conference for student government
 - 3. Highly recommend working with them
- xxiv. Professional Development is also an important part of grad life
 - 1. Could we send a grad student to the BIG 12 fellowship?
 - 2. Faculty sharing money with grad students to go to conferences?
- xxv. Thanking us for the work we do and having her here to talk

III. Officer Reports (*Officers: 5 minutes*)

- a. President (*Will Armentrout*)
 - i. Attached documents to agenda
 - 1. Letter we received from VP of finance in response to the parking letter to administration

- a. Also got an email from President Gee
 - 2. Bulleted list to changes to the graduate catalog
 - a. Highlighting 4 committee members (unless college requires more)
 - b. 5 year limit for finishing degree, only 1 year extension
 - 3. Email or post with any questions
 - b. Vice-President (*Sam Horrocks*)
 - i. Q: town hall with OGEL?
 - 1. No response on whether we co-sponsor that
 - 2. When?
 - a. November 2, Bennett Tower Room G05 at 3:30
 - c. Secretary (*Lindsey McNellis*)
 - i. Minutes approved and will be posted soon
 - d. Treasurer (*Chris Morlock*)
 - i. No updates
- IV. University Committee Reports (10 minutes)
 - a. Graduate Council
 - i. No report
 - b. Graduate Associate Deans Committee
 - i. Hasn't met since September
 - ii. Next meeting will be soon
 - iii. Ask Karraker for help with degree requirements
 - c. Graduate Student Advisory Council
 - i. Meeting this Wednesday 10/5
 - d. Faculty Senate Committees
 - i. Cabot has info
 - ii. Get interest in various committees
 - e. SGA Liaison (*Nathan Tehrani*)
 - i. College Representative Update
 - ii. Nate isn't present – Will giving the updates
 - 1. 2 reps from each college
 - 2. Grad student spot on the judicial court (JBoard)
 - a. Meet once every few months as issues arise
 - i. Contact SGA president
 - b. Josh volunteered, but might not need a law student
 - 3. Mountainlair is being renovated – things we'd like to see?
- V. GPSS Committees and Special Projects – Reports & Meeting Planning (15 mins)
 - a. Committee on Academic Affairs (4 ppl interested)
 - i. Nothing to report
 - b. Committee on Recruitment and Outreach (5 ppl interested)
 - i. Special Project on Internet Presence
 - ii. Special Project on Understanding Existing Graduate and Professional Student Organizations
 - iii. Number of senate seats left to fill?
 - 1. Doing well, 9 colleges represented, now 10
 - iv. Meeting is at Evansdale to help spread the travel around

- c. Committee on Social Activities (Amanda Bailey, Chair) (4 ppl interested)
 - i. October 21 – Fright Farm (*Proposed*)
 - 1. All grad students are welcome
 - 2. First 20 ppl to sign up get reduced price ticket
 - 3. Carpool – about 25 minutes away
 - 4. More info coming soon
 - 5. Group rate gets a tent/tables and own hayride
 - ii. November 17 – Grad Pub at the Brew Pub (*Proposed*)
 - 1. Free food and ½ off drinks
 - iii. Team trivias going on
 - 1. Thursday at Gibbies
 - 2. Thursday at Primanti Bros
 - 3. Sunday at Mountain State
 - 4. Tin202 doing a grad student night (maybe Wednesday)
 - d. Committee on Financial Affairs and Student Life (4 ppl interested)
 - i. Special Project on Parking on Campus – Letter Attached
 - ii. Parking for planetarium events?
 - iii. Perhaps collate all parking information to send in an email
- VI. Open Floor
- a. Congratulations card on Gee’s engagement to Mrs. Erickson
 - b. Email from political science – if college fees are eliminated would the freebies be gone? Those are paid for by university fees. College fees are usually for graduate student development.
 - c. New initiative over the summer – tried to ask associate deans to remove college tuition, they pushed back
 - i. Will be presented again at a future date
 - d. Create a flyer or pamphlet that would go out to all the colleges to use in their orientations that highlights our organization and things that are pertinent to first semester grad students
- VII. Adjournment
- a. Adjourned at 8:18 pm

**Next Meeting: Monday, November 7 at 7 pm
Evansdale Crossing, Room 414**